

Message Text

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SUBJECT: THE 21ST UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL

1. SUMMARY: FIRST DAY'S PLENARY SESSION SAW ELECTION OF DR. ALARCON (CUBA) AS PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL; NUMEROUS DELEGATION STATEMENTS PRAISING OUTGOING ADMINISTRATOR PETERSON AND WELCOMING INCOMING ADMINISTRATOR MORSE; AND A MAJOR STATEMENT BY SWEDISH UNDER SECRETARY KLACKENBERG. LATTER STATEMENT CALLED FOR VIGOROUS ACTION ALONG VARIOUS LINES TO SOLVE UNDP'S FINANCIAL CRISIS, INCLUDING INCREASED VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS. THE MEETING OF THE BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE WAS DEVOTED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO RESPONSES BY UNDP ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OLVER AND UNESCO REPRESENTATIVE REGARDING THE PROBLEMS POSED BY SOVIET RUBLES AND UNDP'S LACK OF SUCCESS OF RESOLVING THESE PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. PLENARY SESSION MORNING JANUARY 15 GOT UNDER WAY WITH ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION OF DR. RICARDO ALARCON (CUBA) AS PRESIDENT OF GOVERNING COUNCIL; AMBASSADOR KNUTE HEDEMAN (NORWAY) AS FIRST VP; AMBASSADOR ILLA SALIFOU (NIGER) AS SECOND VP; MR. ANTONI CZARKOWSKI (POLAND) AS THIRD VP; AND MISS GHOSE (INDIA) AS RAPPORTEUR. FAREWELL STATEMENT
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BY ADMINISTRATOR PETERSON WENT OVER THE FAMILIAR GROUND

COVERED IN DP/155, 171 AND 172 AND INCLUDED IN THE EXPLANATION OF CAUSES FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL CRISIS A REFERENCE TO CONTRIBUTIONS "FROM A MAJOR DONOR" WHICH HAD BEEN \$42 MILLION LESS THAT UNDP HAD EXPECTED. PETERSON CLOSED WITH A REFERENCE TO THE CALL IN THE RESOLUTION EMERGING FROM THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION (3362) FOR INCREASES IN OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN BUILDING A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. REMAINDER OF MORNING WAS DEVOTED TO A SHORT NON-SUBSTANTIVE SPEECH BY MORSE AND SPEECHES BY VARIOUS DELEGATIONS PRAISING PETERSON AND WELCOMING MORSE.

3. AFTERNOON SESSION BEGAN WITH A MAJOR STATEMENT BY SWEDISH UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE LENNART KLACKENBERG. HE LED OFF WITH A CALL FOR INCREASES IN VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, EMPHASIZING THAT SOME INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTE FAR LESS TOTAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE THAN DOES SWEDEN, AND SAID THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE COUNCIL TO DEFINE WHAT IT CONSIDERS EACH GOVERNMENT'S EQUITABLE SHARE OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNDP. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT GOVERNMENTS MAKE PLEDGES COVERING A 5-YEAR PERIOD RATHER THAN A SINGLE YEAR. KALCKENBERG'S SPEECH WAS WELL BALANCED HOWEVER AND ALSO EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF REMEDIAL ACTION IN OTHER AREAS, INCLUDING THE "DIFFICULT CURRENCY" ASPECT. GENERAL STATEMENTS WERE ALSO MADE BY THE UK AND NETHERLANDS, THE FORMER CALLING FOR CREATION OF AN INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE BUDGETARY COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR.

4. SUBSEQUENT PLENARY DISCUSSION OF DROUGHT-STRICKEN AREAS OF AFRICA WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY.

5. AFTERNOON SESSION OF BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE WAS DEVOTED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION INITIATED BY US AND UK REPS (USUN 129), WITH MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION BEING USE OF RUBLES. QUESTIONS BY UK, US, INDIAN AND ARGENTINIAN REPS ELICITED LENGTHY RESPONSES BY UNDP ASSISTANT SECRETARY OLVER AND UNESCO REP MCKITTERICK. FORMER SPELLED OUT IN GREAT DETAIL THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DIFFICULTIES UNDP HAS HAD WITH RUBLES AND HISTORY OF ITS UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO RESOLVE PROBLEM. UNESCO REP CONFIRMED DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN ATTEMPTING TO USE RUBLES IN UNDP-FINANCED PROJECTS. THE SOVIET REP FINALLY SPOKE UP AND CONTENTED AT SOME LENGTH THAT ONLY REAL PROBLEM IS "UNBALANCED" USE OF UNDP RESOURCES, I.E. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST USSR. ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS WILL BE HEARD ON THIS SUBJECT WHEN COMMITTEE MEETS AGAIN

MORNING OF JANUARY 20. THIS IS MOST THOROUGH DISCUSSION
OF RUBLE PROBLEM TO WHICH THIS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN
EXPOSED AND IT WILL INCREASE PRESSURE UPON THE SOVIETS
TO MAKE SOME CONCESSIONS WITH REGARD TO CONVERTIBILITY.
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